

ANNUAL REPORT,
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR, 1938.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROMNEY MARSH.
MR. CHAIRMAN & COUNCILLORS.

The area of the district is 31031 acres.

The resident population in mid-1938 as estimated by the Registrar General was 3523.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year, 1938, according to the Rate Books was 1421.

The rateable value was £18802.

The sum represented by a penny rate was £78.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males	Females	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	18	25	43
	Illegitimate	1	0	1
		19	25	44

This gives a Birth Rate of 12.46 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 15.10.

Birth Rates for past five years :—

	Romney Marsh.	England and Wales.
1934	13.57	14.80
1935	12.64	14.70
1936	15.67	14.80
1937	12.94	14.90
1938	12.46	15.10
Average	13.45	14.86

	Males	Females	Total.
DEATHS	19	25	= 44

This gives a Death Rate of 12.48 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The death rate for England and Wales was 11.6

Death rates for the past five years.

	Romney Marsh	England and Wales.
1934	9.78	11.80
1935	12.02	11.70
1936	7.83	12.10
1937	10.88	12.40
1938	12.48	11.60
Average	10.59	11.92

Stillbirths—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 22.22

Death from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 live and still births Nil

Puerperal Sepsis ... Nil

Other Puerperal Causes ... Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... 90.90

Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births ... 22.72

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births ... 68.18

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10
" " Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	Nil

There was no unusual or excessive mortality.

Conditions of occupation and environment are excellent.

There was no serious unemployment.

Public Health Officers and services :—

The Public Health Officers are the Medical Officer of Health, who is a part time officer, and the Sanitary Inspector who is also Building Inspector and is a whole time officer.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Laboratory at Maidstone.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free to any Medical Practitioner who considers its administration necessary or advisable, a small stock is kept and is obtainable from me at any time.

The Lydd, New Romney and District Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association have a Modern and up-to date Motor Ambulance which is available for use anywhere in the district and the Council subscribes towards its upkeep.

The Voluntary Hospitals to which patients from our district are sent are situated at Ashford and Folkestone. The Royal Victoria Hospital at Folkestone has recently been enlarged, but even so, the accommodation is not sufficient for the demand, and there is still some delay in the admission of patients.

In accordance with the new Midwives Act, The District Nursing Associations of Dymchurch, Ruckinge, New Romney and Appledore have extended or altered their boundaries so that the whole district is now served by a District Nurse who is a Midwife.

Child Welfare Centres are held at Dymchurch and Brenzett, but this Service is under the County Medical Officer, and so also is the Medical Inspection of Schools and Health Visiting.

Public Assistance is administered in the district by the County Council.

Complicated Maternity Cases can be sent to one of the General Hospitals and cases of Puerperal Fever would go to the Isolation Hospital at Folkestone.

Your arrangement with the Corporation of Folkestone for the reception of cases of Infections Disease into their Isolation Hospital is still in force as is a similar one with Hastings Corporation for cases of Small Pox.

WATER—

Extensions of the Mid Kent Water Company's Mains to the outlying properties is proving rather difficult in view of the unproductive revenue from the length of main required to reach the properties that need the water, but these cases are now under investigation and the County Council have been approached for financial aid by way of grant.

Reports of the Bacteriological Examination of the Mid Kent Water Company's water which is supplied to the district are sent to me every month and are invariably good, and there was no curtailment of the supply during the year in spite of a drought during the summer.

During this year the Council negotiated with the Littlestone Water Company to take over the Water System in the parish of Dymchurch and agreement was reached to enable the transfer to take place on the 1st April, 1939. The Company have also agreed to lay a new 6 inch main from St. Mary's Bay to the centre of Dymchurch by the 1st July, 1939.

Complaints continued to be received about the Littlestone Water Company's water being over-chlorinated and also a very acute shortage occurred during the August Bank Holiday period. As the over-chlorination had been pointed out to the Company and the shortage of supply during droughts had occurred on previous occasions and the Company did not appear to be taking any proper steps to improve these conditions, you, together with the neighbouring Councils of New Romney and Lydd, wrote to the Minister of Health asking him to send down an Engineering Inspector to investigate the complaints, and on 11th August, Mr. J. Gardner, M.Inst.C.E. of the Ministry, came to New Romney and held an informal inquiry at the Town Hall, where a number of consumers attended and made their complaints to the Inspector. It was pointed out to the Inspector that we were dissatisfied with the way the process of Chlorination was being carried out and that we did not consider the Company had taken all the steps necessary to look for more water which we believed could be found in the beach. Afterwards the Inspector visited the Company's Wells and Pumping Station.

Since this there has been an improvement in the process of chlorination although two samples of water have shewn evidence of over-chlorination in a small degree.

The Company has sunk extra wells and we are given to understand have obtained additional water which in their opinion will be sufficient for the future requirements of their statutory area.

These extra wells and the additional 6 inch main from St. Mary's Bay to Dymchurch should solve the water shortage in the future.

DRAINAGE & SEWAGE—

Since the Council took over the emptying of cesspools and removal of house refuse at Dymchurch by direct labour and with their own plant under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, there has been a great improvement in this service.

New Building Bye-Laws for the district were approved by the Minister of Health on 29th September last and came into operation on the 1st of November.

HOUSING—

During the year four Council Houses have been in course of construction in the parish of Newchurch and will be completed shortly.

Infectious Diseases notified during the year :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	3

One case of Scarlet Fever and one case of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Folkestone.

The other case of Scarlet Fever and two of the cases of Diphtheria were visitors and were removed to their home districts.

Two of the cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were sent to a Sanatorium.

There were 14 persons' names on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

I would like to thank the Clerk for his assistance in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

7th June, 1939.

ARNOLD McMILLAN.

TO THE ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1938.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

A.	Total including number given separately under (B)	62
B.	With State assistance under Housing Acts	
	(1) By the Local Authority	Nil
	(2) By other bodies or persons	1
1.	Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—	
	(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	42
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	50
	(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	10
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	10
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
	(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	9
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
	A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	6
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
	B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	4
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
	C.—Proceedings under sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room being made fit	Nil
4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	2
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	2
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	12
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	8
(d) Number of cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
Registered Slaughter Houses	4
Licensed Slaughter Houses	1

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs
Number inspected	10	57	—	2700	530
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	—	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	10	—	230	32
Percentage ...	—	17.54	—	8.52	6.04
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	7	—	—	2
Percentage ...	—	12.28	—	—	.38

	No. in district.	No. of visits	No. of defects found.	No. of defects remedied.
Bakehouses	3	9	1	1
Dairies	23	72	14	14
Cowsheds				
Milk shops	5	144	9	9
Slaughter Houses	3	15	1	1
Workshops				

Nuisances investigated and abated :—

	No. investigated	No. abated
Overcrowding	3	1
Offensive Trades	Nil	Nil
Keeping of Animals	3	3
Sanitary Accommodation	43	21
Drainage investigated	72	63
Number of Houses disinfected	5	—

Action under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 :—

Nuisances located and abated	...	...	...	...	...	25
Number of Sites licensed by the Council	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Sites not licensed	...	...	...	...	...	15
Total number of inspections made during the year in the investigation and recording of the occupation of Sites for Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	864

Approximate number of houses containing each type of Sanitary Convenience etc.—

W.c's to Drainage System	...	...	...	...	...	177
" " Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	736
Earth Closets or Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	...	52
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	370
Number of Premises connected to Public Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	756
" " not " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	636
Total number of all kinds of visits paid by the Inspector during the year	...	...	...	...	...	1660

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. G. EVANS,

15th May, 1939.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector.